

TO PROVIDE FOR THE ERECTION OF A PUBLIC BUILDING AT ASHEVILLE, N. C.

APRIL 14, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. YOUNG, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,
submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 6543.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds submit the following report upon the bill (H. R. 1125) to provide for a public building at Asheville, N. C.:

By the act of June 4, 1872, the State of North Carolina was divided into two judicial districts, Asheville being situate in about the center of the "western district." This division divides the State, as to territory and population, about equally, there being forty-five counties in the western district, comprising an area about 300 miles in length and about an average of 150 miles in width. The business done in the United States courts at Asheville comes from about thirty counties of the district, the balance of the district going to Greensborough, Statesville, and Charlotte.

There is no Government building within this vast territory west of Greensborough, the almost entire body of the western district being *west* of Greensborough.

Much the largest portion of the business of the district, both criminal and civil, is done at Asheville, being the central point. The report of the Attorney-General shows that the causes pending in the "western district," in which the Government is a party, are largely in excess of those pending in the "eastern district." It appears that while the court is held in four places in the said western district, the greater portion is done at Asheville, there being as many as from 400 to 500 cases on the docket at that place at one time.

The city of Asheville, with its adjacent growing villages, has a population of from 6,000 to 8,000, and now rapidly increasing in consequence of its peculiar geographical and commercial position.

The Western North Carolina Railroad reaches Asheville, and there diverges, one branch going north, via Knoxville, and within 18 hours' run of Louisville, Ky., the other going west towards the North Georgia line; while the Asheville and Spartanburg Railroad only wants the completion of twenty miles to connect Asheville with Charleston, S. C., by a travel of twenty hours or less. Asheville is, therefore, the center of this great western portion of North Carolina, through which the great railroad lines mentioned must pass. Other railroads are in progress destined to reach this point.

Asheville is a great summer resort, having several of the finest hotels in the State, and is easily accessible from all directions.

Sixty or seventy mercantile establishments, including several wholesale houses, are being supported in the city. There are four or five large warehouses for the sale of leaf tobacco, while several tobacco manufactories are engaged in the manufacture of tobacco. It is the center and terminus of nine different mail routes, and the post-office receipts and disbursements, including the money-order business, amount to about \$128,000 annually. The Post-Office Department, the Internal-Revenue Department, and the Judiciary Department all have offices kept from year to year in the city at an estimated cost of \$1,400 for rents. It appears that the district court is held twice in each year, and that the state courts have, in some instances, given way to accommodate the United States courts.

The committee are of the opinion that it would be economy in the Government to erect a building such as indicated in the accompanying substitute, and they therefore recommend its passage.

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